



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 8

1595 Wynkoop Street
DENVER, CO 80202-1129
Phone 800-227-8917
<http://www.epa.gov/region08>

Ref: 8EPR

October 14, 2008

Kathi Hooper
Lincoln County Sanitarian
418 Mineral Avenue
Libby, MT 59923

Dear Ms. Hooper:

On Friday, October 10, 2008, Ray Miller, Superintendent at the Lincoln County Landfill, notified the EPA team about a discarded water tank that was wrapped with suspect asbestos insulation material. A licensed asbestos inspector from our team visited the landfill to inspect the suspect material and confirmed that the insulation wrapping was likely asbestos containing. He advised a landfill employee to rope off the area and until he could talk to EPA team members to determine what, if anything, could be done. The area was roped off that afternoon.

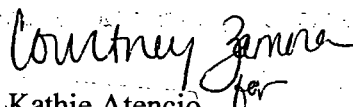
This morning, Ray Miller called the EPA Information Center to follow-up on last week's visit. As was explained to Ray, although the insulation wrap is likely to contain asbestos, it is not the same type of asbestos that EPA is currently in the process of removing throughout Lincoln County. EPA has the authority to remove Libby Amphibole asbestos only, not other types of asbestos material as was found on the water tank.

Although EPA does not typically remove non-Libby Amphibole asbestos, EPA has enjoyed a collaborative working arrangement with Lincoln County while in Libby. I have given permission to our contractors to remove the water tank and discard it in the Asbestos Landfill Cell. However, some of the insulation wrapping has broken off of the water tank. The removal of the insulation that has broken off of the water tank will be the County's responsibility to properly remove. Although we cannot remove the insulation for you, we can provide some general guidance with how to address the contamination.

We commend the employees at the Lincoln County Landfill for their timely communication with our field staff. We recognize that the employees are looking out for their safety as well as the safety of the community at large.

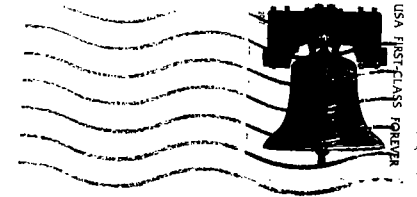
If you have any further questions, please contact me at 303-312-6803.

Sincerely,


Kathie Atencio
EPA Team Leader

cc: Project File
Ray Miller, Lincoln County Landfill, 4000 Pipe Creek Road
Courtney Zamora, Volpe Center Site Manager

Courtney Zamora
Volpe Center Site Mngr
60 Port Blvd Ste 201
Libby, MT 59923



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